

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on May 4–6, 2002 more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People. . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that the class from Incline High School from Incline Village represented the State of Nevada in this national event. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People. . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of our government in the aftermath of September 11th. These ideas identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) showed that students enrolled in the We the People. . . program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Further, in a voting and civic participation survey of program alumni, 82% reported voting in the November 2000 election. In contrast, the National Election Studies reported a 48% turnout in the November 2000 election among Americans aged 18–30. This provides ample evidence that when students gain valuable knowledge about fundamental American val-

ues, they are more likely to participate in political life.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People. . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION, BERLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the students and staff of the Berlin Township School District on the occasion of their D.A.R.E. graduation, which took place on March 25th, 2002. I was honored to speak at the graduation ceremony, and I would like the names of all the D.A.R.E. graduates, officers and teachers recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Instructional Staff.—Cathy Conicella, Kathy Arent, Judi Knopke, Denise Conn, Karen Okulanis, Sherie Troendle, Monica King, and Fabian Brown.

D.A.R.E. Officers.—Sgt. William Hill, Officer Rob Murray, and Officer Gary Sheehan.

Supervisor of D.A.R.E.—Robert E. Jackson, Jr.

Support Staff.—Oretta Thomas, Charlotte Cohen, Joan Mondile, and Mary Suard.

FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

D.A.R.E. Period 1.—Christopher Brooks, Melanie Dotts, Aarina Eleazer, Kelsey Greager, Kyle Greis, Joseph Hartshorne, Maria Lioliakis, Patrick McElroy, Ryan McElroy, Kelsey Odegaard, Stefani Pelly, Patrick Perez, Brittany Stalder, Lauren Strain, and Rebecca Swift.

D.A.R.E. Period 3.—Mejbah Ahmed, Anthony Cassario, Nathaniel Culbreath, Richard Fisher, Brianna Garrison, Scott Howard, Alexander Jannini, Ciarra Jones, Charles Lowe, Shawn Lowe, Maria Luciana, Matthew McDermott, Christina Peidl, Kaitlin Richards, Kelly Rodrigues, Tiffany Rodriguez, Alexander Rubolin, Jenney Sabin, Tenia Stansbury, and Tonya Toomer.

D.A.R.E. Period 5.—Matthew Bodanza, John Brecker, Amir Furlow, Brittney Hollowell, Kyle Laganella, Kimberly McKelvey, Marissa Pigliacelli, Margaret Reilly, John Ryan, Christian Smith, Sabrina Smith, Steven Smith, Tomasa Sotelo, Leisl Steinbach, Shanee Thornton, Ashley Tortu, Scott Tretina, Miranda Ulmer, Brandon Wall, and Michael Williams.

D.A.R.E. Period 6.—Kerrin Anderson, Christie Asquith, Henry Birkenheuer, Natalie Bossard, Donald Bowman, Chelsea Calahan, Vincent Carbonaro, Charles Dewland, Diana Gastelum, Christopher Hollimon, Nicole Jewell, Jiamas Johnson, Amanda Kearns, Nicholas Labree, Daniel Messick, Miranda Petersen, Daniel McCready, Michele Pruto, Amber Punihale, Monica Roehr, Logan Ryan, Kamal Uddin, and Bianca Vera.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 126, due to an illness in the family I had to be in my district. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 126.

STUDENT LOAN RATE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak out against the Administration's proposal to change the federal student loan consolidation rates.

Last week it was reported that college loan rates could tumble to roughly 4 percent after July 1. A student with \$20,000 in debt would be able to save \$5,000 on a 20 year repayment plan with a fixed rate of 4.13 percent.

Just as millions of Americans are preparing for large savings on their student loans, the Administration decides to pull the rug out from under their feet by coming out with a proposal that prevents them from locking in low interest rates.

It seems as though this Administration wants to prevent students from moving ahead, after falsely leading them to believe that they would not be left behind.

Due to the efforts of Democrats in both bodies of Congress, the Administration was forced to withdraw their proposal. I am pleased that we were able to prevent this potentially devastating proposal. However, I am still angry that the Administration would try to finance their initiatives at the cost of students struggling to get ahead.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose any future measures that would make it more difficult for America's students to afford a college education.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY BAILEY, WARREN, FCI FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nancy Bailey, who retires on Saturday, June 1, 2002, after 27 years of distinguished service in our nation's correctional system.

Her rise through the ranks from her beginnings as a Correctional Officer in 1974 through various administrative positions within

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